(d) Excavations are taken up with the approval of the competent authority to resolve specific archaeological problems and not for just collecting antiquities. The Archaeological Survey protects only such monuments/ remains which are of national importance.

Taking over of Manipur University

1052. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Manipur University into the Central University of the North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) details of any other steps taken to provide assistance to Manipur University?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Manipur University has been established under an Act of State Legislature, and as a matter of policy, the Central Government does not convert State Universities into Central Universities.

(d) UGC provides development grants to State Universities for strengthening institutional infrastructure such as buildings, books and journals, equipment and other facilities designed to promote the quality and level of teaching and research. The Commission also provides grants under various Schemes of special assistance. According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commission provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 254.20 lakhs to Manipur University during the 7th Plan and a grant of Rs. 135.00 lakhs has been allocated in the 8th Plan.

National Institute of Sports

1053. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Institute of Sports;

(b) if so, the place at which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) when the work is likely to be started in this regard and its target date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). There is already a National Institute of Sports at Patiala, established in 1961. Its branches have been established at Bangalore, Calcutta, Gandhinagar and Imphal, and Sub-Centres at Aurangabad and Guwahati. There is at present no felt need to set up another National Institute of Sports.

(c) Does not arise.

Students Studying In USSR

1054. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plights of the students studying in different colleges and Universities of the erstwhile USSR;

(b) whether the Government propose to accommodate the students in the Universities and college in India to save their academic year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). It was brought to the notice of the Government that some of the students were experiencing difficulties. the Government have also through the Ministry of External Affairs taken up the matter with Republics of the former USSR. On the advice of the Indian Embassy in Moscow, the Ministry of Human Resource Development have sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 500.00 per month to be paid in hard currency to each of the students studying in the USSR who were deputed officially through the Ministry of Human Resource Development, over and above the scholarships they are already getting. In addition, on the advice of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to Banks and Foreign Exchange dealers to allow parents and guardians of all students already studying in the former USSR to remit upto US Dollars 50 per month. Reserve Bank of India has also authorised the purchase of return tickets from Moscow in Indian rupees. The Ministry of External Affairs have also issued an advisory notice in the Press to the effect that no Indian students should seek admission to institutions in the former Soviet Union on a self-financing and non-governmental sponsoring basis, until such time as the situation crystallises in these countries, and that those who did so would be doing so at their own risk as Government liability does not arise for them.

'Public Grievance Cell'

1055. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have set up a Ecological public grievance cell;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of grievances received and disposed off;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether similar experiments will be tried out in other branch such as pollution;

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued for public and Non-Government Organisations in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Non-Government Organisations thereon and the action taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have set up a Public Grievances Redressal Cell.

(b) Till 31st January 1992, 103 grievances were received, of which 56 were disposed of.

(c) Separate expenditure is not involved as the cell has been set up within the existing staff strength of the Ministry.

(d) The cell deals with grievances relating to the areas of environmental degradation, pollution, cruelty to animals and release of grants to various organisations.

(e) The order setting up the Public Grievances Redressal Cell, including the procedure to be followed for registering grievances, has been given wide publicity through the Press.

(f) Non-Government Organisations are also free to register grievances with the Grievances cell and some of them have availed of this facility.